



# Seldovia Gazette

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## Thoughtful Insights In Response To The Movie Review of Capricorn One.

### *Dear Seldovia Gazette:*

During my earlier professional life I was one of the "guys in the white coats" mentioned by Mr. Hoard in his recent review of the movie, Capricorn One. (reprinted below)

He wrote: "Critics will find problems with ... how easily it seems that such large a lie could be propagated. ... And if nothing else Capricorn One will leave you with the impetus to question everything and the reminder that sometimes the guys in the white coats aren't as smart as they think they are"

It comes as no surprise to this white coated guy that "such a large lie could be propagated," and rather easily at that. Human history is repleat with examples. Many such lies are still fiercely supported and defended by multitudes without hard evidence. Some need only look inward to find some.

But, I especially appreciate Mr. Hoard's urging his readers to "question everything." Calling his readers to adopt the scientific method is welcomed. You see, the essential nature of us science types, us white coated guys is just that; to continually question everything - even what we just found to seem correct! We frequently find that under more refined scrutiny that the "right" we question does not hold true under all conditions. That's precisely how scientific progress is made. It is a process of ever increasing refinement and some of its discoveries have been rather profound to say the least. We must have the humility to know our endeavors lead us only to ever increasing levels of "right." Or is it ever more decreasing levels of "wrong?" Some of us even question whether there really is a right. But we have not devised an appropriate test for all situations - yet!

Still, though our endeavors have only led to more "right" but still "wrong," consider what advances they have brought to mankind - no matter their wrongness! Just one small example would be the fact that the two of us are able to exchange communications at the speed of light from distant points on the planet by simply pecking away at a keyboard - and this could still take place with the same rapidity and efficiency were one of us on Earth and the other on the moon or Mars! It wasn't all that long ago we'd have to actually travel to be within hearing distance to accomplish this!

This year we celebrate the birth of Charles Darwin two hundred years ago. Though the core elements of his discovery remain on solid ground, we're still extending our understanding of its ramifications. That's just the way this process works.

Happy questioning to all. Subject everything you question to comparison with measurable experience Every answer should lead you to another question. Don't be afraid of being wrong - everybody is - at least in part! Those who think they are always right tend to be the most wrong.

Jere Murray

**Movie Review:  
CAPRICORN ONE  
By Jonathan Hoard  
July 23, 2009**


In light of the 40th anniversary of the moon landing I thought it would be fun to look at a movie dealing with space exploration. This movie came out in 1978 and presented an all star cast for the day, Hal Holbrook, James Brolin, Sam Watterson, O.J. Simpson, Elliot Gould and Telly Savalas.

The plot of this movie plays off the conspiracy theories that began to arise in the mid 70's, that being, that the moon landing was faked. Now before you start shouting at your computer screen, you need to know that Neil Armstrong is a hero of mine and I even attended Neil A. Armstrong Elementary School. I know the problem with conspiracies is that the bigger the secret the harder it is to keep it. Conspiracies by their very nature do not make good reality. However, they can often make good movies.

The movie story surrounds a manned mission to Mars. When last minute and unforeseen problems arise the decision is made to launch the rocket without the astronauts and then fake the TV feed by using a movie set made to look like the surface of Mars, built in the desert. The problem comes when the capsule burns up on reentry leaving the world to mourn the apparent deaths of the astronauts. If not for a curious and skeptical reporter the cover up might never have been revealed.

Capricorn One can't compete with all the action packed spy thrillers of today when it comes to blowing your hair back. But this movie will grab you. The story is infectious and the acting though a little corny and over the top at times grows on the viewer. The plot builds the dramatic tension from the slow beginning to the nail-biting climax.

Critics will find problems with some of the technical aspects of the movie and how easily it seems that such large a lie could be propagated. One might be quick to dismiss the whole plot as implausible, but if you view the movie as an interesting story and not a documentary I think you will be entertained. And if nothing else Capricorn One will leave you with the impetus to question everything and the reminder that sometimes the guys in the white coats aren't as smart as they think they are.

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